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Paleozoic seas first covered Manitoba about 570 million years ago, when shales of the Cambrian Period were deposited. The first well-preserved fossi found in Cambrian strata. Later gentle unlift and erosion, however, removithese strata from Manitoba, so the first sedimentary limestone rocks preserve of the Ordovician Period (about 440-500 million years ago). These limestot the well-known Tyndall building stone. The next strata laid down were the dethe Silurian period, a time when the first sea animals with backbones (verteappeared.

Following a period of gentle uplift and erosion approximately 395 million seas of the Devonian period advanced over much of Manitoba. Limes dolomites were deposited, along with widespread beds of salt and potash thick coral and algal reefs. The Devonian is sometimes called the Age of Fish of their prolific development at this time. Land plants also developed for the The Early Carboniferous, or Mississippian period, began about 345 mi ago. During this time, land plants proliferated and the first major coral beform. Seas once again covered Manitoba and the decaying bodies of the abuanimals that lived in the sea were deposited in the sediments and eventually trinito oil, which we now find trapped in Mississippian rocks in the Virden arthe interval between 310-180 million years ago, the area was gently uplisslightly, and subjected to considerable erosion.

Beginning about 180 million years ago, Mesozoic (intermediate life) for the Jurassic period were deposited. In Manitoba, these beds consist primari and shales, from debris that was being stripped from rising mountain range west, in what is now British Columbia. Following another short period of erosion, upper Mesozoic sands and shales of the Cretaceous period were depomaterial forms the hills of southern and western Manitoba—the Pembin Duck, and Porcupine Mountains.

Although the Mesozoic era has been called the Age of Reptiles, we have dinosaurs in Manitoba, only large marine reptiles such as the plesiosaurs that roamed the seas. Remains of these creatures have been found preservof bentonite or volcanic ash, in quarries in the Morden area. Warm-bloo birds, and modern plants began to appear in Mesozoic times. About 6.